



**Bay Area
Dioxins Project**

Resources for Health Care Pollution Prevention

Environmental Best Practices for Health Care Facilities | June 2003

JCAHO Environment of Care
Standards 1.3, 2.3, 4.0

Publications: Hospital Waste Reduction/Pollution Prevention

An Ounce of Prevention: Waste Reduction Strategies for Health Care Facilities (American Hospital Association, ASHES, 1993)
May be purchased from AHA \$29.95 (member), \$50 (nonmember); order number 057-007. Call (800) AHA-2626 to order. Also available in some University Medical Center libraries. Available for interlibrary loan from the U.S. EPA Region 9 library.

Waste Minimization Starter Kit (Kaiser Permanente, undated)

Tool kit including instructions, poster, fact sheet, training slides, and tent cards

May be purchased from Kaiser Permanente, \$100. Call 510-625-4737 to order.

Hospital Pollution Prevention (P-2) Strategies (California Department of Health Services, 2003)

How-to manual for hospital mercury elimination, solid waste reduction and medical waste reduction

Free: www.dhs.ca.gov/medicalwaste

Self-Assessment Manual for Proper Management of Medical Waste (California Department of Health Services and California Healthcare Association, 1999)

Information about compliance with the Medical Waste Management Act and waste reduction

Free: www.dhs.ca.gov/medicalwaste

"Know Where to Throw" (Contra Costa County Health Department, 2001)

Posters and Stickers to promote waste segregation

Free: ordering information on the Internet www.ciwmb.ca.gov/BizWaste/Posters/RedBag.htm

Going Green: A Resource Kit for Pollution Prevention in Health Care (Health Care Without Harm, 2001)

Information on Mercury, Dioxin, Polyvinylchloride (PVC) & diethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP), Waste Minimization, Environmentally Preferable Purchasing, Worker Health & Safety—latex, needle sticks, glutaraldehyde, and cleaning chemicals

Free: www.noharm.org/GoingGreen

Environmental Best Practices for Health Care Facilities (U.S. EPA Region 9, 2002)

Three fact sheets, all available for free on the Internet: www.ciwmb.ca.gov/WPIE/HealthCare/

- *Using Microfiber Mops in Hospitals*

Detailed cost information for switching from conventional wet loop mops to microfiber mops for floor cleaning. Highlights the benefits including shorter cleaning times, reduced chemical and water use, and easier ergonomics

- *Reusable Totes, Blue Wrap Recycling, and Composting*

Detailed information on costs, savings, and implementation issues

- *Replacing Ethylene Oxide and Glutaraldehyde*

Information on the hazards of two sterilants and alternatives to their use.

Publications: Hospital Mercury Reduction

A Guide to Mercury Assessment and Elimination in HealthCare Facilities and Mercury Assessment Toolkit (California Department of Health Services, 2001)

Practical handbook and Microsoft Excel worksheets for mercury inventories

Free: www.dhs.ca.gov/medicalwaste; also available on a CD from DHS

Eliminating Mercury in Hospitals (U.S. EPA Region 9, 2002)

Identifies where mercury is found in hospitals and how it can be eliminated.

Free: www.ciwmb.ca.gov/wpie/HealthCare/mercury.htm

Reducing Mercury Use in Health Care: Promoting a Healthier Environment (Monroe County Department of Health, in cooperation with Strong Memorial Hospital, Rochester, New York and the Monroe County Department of Environmental Services, undated)

Free: www.epa.gov/glnpo/bnsdocs/merchealth/index.html

"Mercury in the Environment" (California Department of Toxic Substances Control, 2000)

A set of brief flyers covering mercury-containing equipment commonly found in businesses and institutions (thermostats and probes, fluorescent and HID lamps, thermometers, switches and relays, and gauges. (Multiple copies are available to California organizations that distribute it.) Free; call 800-700-5854 and ask for document number 623.

Publications: Waste Management Choices

Non-Incineration

Medical Waste

Treatment Technologies

and "Update on
Pyrolysis "(Health Care
Without Harm, 2001 and
2002)

Free: www.noharm.org/
Nonincineration

*Rethinking Medical
Waste Management*

(Association of Bay
Area Governments,
2003)

Set of materials for
hospitals evaluating
regulated medical waste
management options
Five fact sheets and a
cost worksheet, all
available for free on the
Internet:

[http://dioxin.abag.ca.gov/
project_materials.htm#
medical_waste](http://dioxin.abag.ca.gov/project_materials.htm#medical_waste)

Internet Sites | Resources at your fingertips

Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (Partnership among AHA, U.S. EPA, ANA, and HCWH)
www.h2e-online.org

H2E program information and many resources, including detailed information on mercury, waste reduction, chemicals, pollution prevention, and green purchasing.

Health Care Without Harm

www.noharm.org

Publications, issue background, and links to many healthcare pollution prevention and waste management resources.

Sustainable Hospitals

www.sustainablehospitals.org

Focuses on providing tools for environmentally preferable purchasing for healthcare. Information about safe needle devices and alternatives to products containing mercury, latex, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and other potentially harmful materials. Alternative product lists and vendor information. Key user considerations for the products.

HospAA (Hospital Alliance Association - formerly the Alliance)

www.hospaa.org (Select HP3 from the menu on the left of the home page)

Healthcare Pollution Prevention Program information and publications. Information about conferences and other opportunities for healthcare professionals to learn more about pollution prevention.

California Department of Health Services Medical Waste Management Program

www.dhs.ca.gov/medicalwaste

Medical waste management program compliance information, lists of permitted offsite treatment facilities, transfer stations, medical waste transporters throughout the state, information on alternative treatment technologies, state and local enforcement agency contacts, pollution prevention publications (same as publications available through HospAA).

Waste Prevention Information Exchange—Hospital Waste (California Integrated Waste Management Board)

www.ciwmb.ca.gov/WPIE/HealthCare/

General resources site with links to numerous publications and web sites on healthcare waste reduction and pollution prevention.

RN No Harm/Pollution Prevention

www.nursingworld.org/rnnoharm/

Designed specifically for nurses, provides information about healthcare-related pollution and pollution prevention. Many resources from the ANA and links to other entities with information of value for nurses. Includes a CEU independent study module for nurses: *Environmental Health in the Health Care Setting* (www.nursingworld.org/mods/working/ehhcs/ehhcs.pdf).